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Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Losoko Efambe **Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2010, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 10th, 15th and 28th meetings, on 13 and 20 October and 12 November 2010. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.10, 15 and 28). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 4 to 6 October (see A/C.2/65/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its sixteenth session;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2008 (A/65/79-E/2010/76);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/65/218);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The role of the special representatives of the Secretary-

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/65/39).

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General and resident coordinators" (A/65/394), and his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/65/394/Add.1);

(e) Letter dated 29 September 2010 from the representative of Yemen to the Secretary-General (A/65/486).

4. At the 10th meeting, on 13 October, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and by the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (see A/C.2/65/SR.10).

5. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, introductory statements were made by the Vice-Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit (by video link) and the Senior Adviser on Information Management Policy Coordination to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Senior Adviser on Information Management Policy Coordination responded to the comments made and questions posed by the représentatives of Cuba, the United States of America, the United Republic of Tanzania and Qatar (see A/C.2/65/SR.28).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.2 and A/C.2/65/L.19

6. By its resolution 2010/23, the Economic and Social Council had recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Renaming of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to include the United Nations Office for Project Services". The draft resolution was reproduced in a note by the Secretariat (A/C.2/65/L.2) and read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, in which it decided that the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme/the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund shall be transformed into Executive Boards,

"*Recalling also* decisions 2008/35 and 2010/7 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme,

"*Recalling further* its decision 48/501 of 19 September 1994, in which it decided that the United Nations Office for Project Services should become a separate and identifiable entity,

"*Reaffirming* the mandate of the United Nations Office for Project Services, in the context of coherence and the furtherance of United Nations objectives, to act as a service provider to the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations, donor and recipient Governments and non-governmental organizations,

"*Reaffirming also* the role of the United Nations Office for Project Services as a central resource for the United Nations system in procurement and contracts management as well as in civil works and physical infrastructure development, including the related capacity development activities,

"*Recognizing* the potential for value-adding contributions that the United Nations Office for Project Services can make in providing efficient, cost-effective services to development partners in the areas of project management, human resources, financial management and common/shared services,

"1. *Welcomes* the current practice of a separate segment for the United Nations Office for Project Services during sessions of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, and notes the desire of Member States to change the name of the Executive Board to include the United Nations Office for Project Services in its title;

"2. *Decides* that the name of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund is to be changed to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services;

"3. *Also decides* that the functions of the Executive Board as set forth in General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 apply mutatis mutandis to the United Nations Office for Project Services."

7. At the 10th meeting, on 13 October, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania made a statement (see A/C.2/65/SR.10) and orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the second preambular paragraph, the words "decisions 2008/35 and 2010/7" were replaced by the words "decisions 2008/35, 2009/25, 2010/7 and 2010/21";

(b) In the fourth preambular paragraph, after the words "service provider to", the words "the United Nations and" were added; and the words ", the private sector, foundations" were inserted after the word "Governments";

(c) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "development partners" were replaced by the words "development, humanitarian and peacebuilding partners".

8. At its 28th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Renaming of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to include the United Nations Office for Project Services" (A/C.2/65/L.19), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Jean Claudy Pierre (Haiti), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.2.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. Also at its 28th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.19 (see para. 17, draft resolution I).

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.19, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.2 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.4 and A/C.2/65/L.14

12. At the 15th meeting, on 20 October, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/65/L.4), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 62/208 of 19 December 2007, on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 63/232 of 19 December 2008 and 64/220 of 21 December 2009, on operational activities for development, and 64/289 of 2 July 2010, on system-wide coherence, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/22 of 23 July 2010, on progress in the implementation of resolution 62/208,

"*Recalling also* the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

"*Acknowledging* the importance of delivering assistance in order to overcome the challenges to improving human life by implementing resolution 62/208,

"*Recalling* the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system so as to ensure that policy orientations established by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006 and 62/208, as well as other relevant resolutions,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2008, recalls the section of resolution 64/289 on improving the funding system of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence, in particular paragraph 26, in which the Assembly stresses the need for adequate quantity and quality of funding for operational activities as well as the need to make funding more predictable, effective and efficient, looks forward to its implementation, and notes the progress made in broadening and improving reporting, in line with paragraph 28 of resolution 62/208;

"2. *Also takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

"3. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening strategies of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the short term, especially in least developed countries and other developing countries that are lagging behind in meeting the targets;

"4. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the role of the special representatives of the Secretary-General and resident coordinators, and of the comments of the Secretary-General and the member organizations of the United Nations system thereon;

"5. *Also takes note* of Economic and Social Council decision 2009/214 of 22 July 2009 on operational activities for development and its resolutions 2008/2 of 18 July 2008, 2009/1 of 22 July 2009 and 2010/22 of 23 July 2010 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208, and expresses appreciation for the guidance provided by the Council on the further implementation of resolution 62/208 as contained therein;

"6. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 63/232 of 19 December 2008, in which it decided to hold its next comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in 2012 and subsequent reviews on a quadrennial basis, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to postpone to its sixty-seventh session the submission, through the Economic and Social Council, of the comprehensive analysis of the implementation of Assembly resolution 62/208 to be prepared in accordance with the guidance contained in paragraph 143 thereof."

13. At its 28th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/65/L.14), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Jean Claudy Pierre (Haiti), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.4.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

15. Also at its 28th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.14 (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

16. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.14, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.4 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

17. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Renaming of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to include the United Nations Office for Project Services

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, in which it decided that the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund shall be transformed into Executive Boards,

Recalling also its decision 48/501 of 19 September 1994, in which it decided that the United Nations Office for Project Services should become a separate and identifiable entity,

Recalling further decisions 2008/35 of 12 September 2008[1] and 2010/7 of 22 January 2010[2] of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund,

Reaffirming the mandate of the United Nations Office for Project Services as contained in Executive Board decision 2009/25 of 11 September 2009,[3] and further recalling the relevant provisions of Executive Board decision 2010/21 of 29 June 2010,[4]

Reaffirming also the role of the United Nations Office for Project Services as a central resource for the United Nations system in procurement and contracts management as well as in civil works and physical infrastructure development, including the related capacity development activities,

Recognizing the potential for value-adding contributions that the United Nations Office for Project Services can make in providing efficient, cost-effective services to partners in the areas of project management, human resources, financial management and common/shared services,

1. *Welcomes* the current practice of holding a separate segment for the United Nations Office for Project Services during sessions of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, and notes the desire of Member States to change the name of the Executive Board to include the United Nations Office for Project Services;

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 15* (E/2008/35), annex I.

[2] See DP/2010/16.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 15* (E/2009/35), annex I.

[4] See DP/2010/34.

2. *Decides* that the name of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund is to be changed to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services;

3. *Also decides* that the functions of the Executive Board as set forth in General Assembly resolution 48/162 apply mutatis mutandis to the United Nations Office for Project Services.

Draft resolution II
Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 63/232 of 19 December 2008 on operational activities for development, 64/220 of 21 December 2009 on operational activities for development of the United Nations system and 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system wide coherence, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2008/2 of 18 July 2008, 2009/1 of 22 July 2009 and 2010/22 of 23 July 2010,

Recalling also the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,[1]

Reaffirming the importance of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

Acknowledging the importance of delivering assistance in order to overcome the challenges to improving human life by implementing its resolution 62/208,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system so as to ensure that policy orientations established by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006 and 62/208 and other relevant resolutions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2008,[2] recalls the section of resolution 64/289 on improving the funding system of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and looks forward to its implementation, and notes the progress made in broadening and improving reporting, in line with paragraph 28 of resolution 62/208;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its sixteenth session;[3]

3. *Further takes note* of the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;[4]

4. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening strategies for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, especially in the least developed countries and other developing countries that are lagging behind in meeting the targets;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the role of the special representatives of the Secretary-General and resident coordinators and of the

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[1] See resolution 65/1.

[2] A/65/79-E/2010/76.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/65/39).

[4] A/65/218.

comments of the Secretary-General and the member organizations of the United Nations system thereon;[5]

6. *Also takes note* of Economic and Social Council decision 2009/214 of 22 July 2009 on operational activities for development and Council resolution 2010/22 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208, and expresses appreciation for the guidance provided by the Council on the further implementation of Assembly resolution 62/208 as contained in Council resolution 2010/22;

7. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 63/232, the General Assembly decided to hold its next comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in 2012 and subsequent reviews on a quadrennial basis, and reiterates the request to the Secretary-General to postpone to its sixty seventh session the submission, through the Economic and Social Council, of the comprehensive analysis of the implementation of Assembly resolution 62/208, to be prepared in accordance with the guidance contained in paragraph 143 of that resolution.

[5] A/65/394 and Add.1.